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re: *Coaches, Judges, Parents and Time Commitment*

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Whitman College, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Coaches, Judges, and Parents that attended the “Remy Wilcox” High School Speech and Debate Tournament. Whitman College has a small student body and fewer classrooms than we really need to host the tournament during the week. As a result, we have had to shift our schedule to Friday-Sunday, increasing the weekend time commitment necessary to bring students to the tournament and provide them with an educational opportunity.

Coaches, Judges and Parents are typically volunteering or virtually volunteering their time on top of an already full work week. The efforts being devoted to education through speech and debate are not simply made up of a few hours one evening; however, the “tournament event” represents at least three full days of travel, rigorous competition, judging students from other schools in dozens of rounds across multiple events, and having little time to sleep let alone do anything other than engage in the tournament. These days are at least 12 hours long, often include long travel times, and require a level of expertise and understanding to even be able to assist. This means one Coach, one Judge, or one Parent is devoting over 36 solid hours of specialized work.

We understand the extent of this time commitment and extend our “thanks” alongside our promise to continue to provide the best judging and the most efficient and educational tournament we possibly can. The hard working High School students deserve no less. It is the dedication and time commitment of the Coaches, Judges, and Parents that make this opportunity a reality and their service deserves as much support as possible in terms of stipends, in-service time, recognition, and all other conceivable encouragement. Thank you once again for your significant efforts.

Sincerely,

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